

## **AccessNI Requirements for Teaching Yoga to Children and Vulnerable Adults in Northern Ireland**

AccessNI (Access Northern Ireland) provides criminal record checks for people who work or volunteer with children or vulnerable adults.

It is part of the Department of Justice (Northern Ireland) and performs a similar role to the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) in England and Wales.

If you teach yoga classes specifically for children (under 18s) — or if your work involves regular, unsupervised contact with minors — you are considered to be doing “regulated activity” under the *Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007*. You must therefore obtain an Enhanced AccessNI disclosure, which includes a check of the children’s barred list.

### **You do not need AccessNI vetting if:**

- You only teach adult yoga classes.
- A child attends an adult class accompanied by their parent or guardian, and you are not solely responsible for the child. This exemption mirrors IY(UK) policy: if a child is under parental supervision, vetting isn’t needed.

### **How to Apply for an Enhanced AccessNI Check**

You cannot apply directly for an Enhanced check — it must be done through a registered organisation or umbrella body.

Options:

- Apply through your yoga studio, school, or IY(UK) (if they are an AccessNI registered body).
- If you are self-employed, you can apply through Safeguarding Solutions the umbrella body authorised by IY(UK) to submit checks for individuals.

Application steps:

1. Complete an AccessNI application form (usually online).
2. Provide proof of identity (passport, driving licence, proof of address).
3. Your organisation or umbrella body verifies and submits the application.
4. You receive your Enhanced Disclosure Certificate by post.

After you receive your certificate, you can register for the AccessNI Update Service. This allows authorised organisations (like IY(UK)) to check your disclosure status online rather than requesting a new certificate each time.

- You must register within 30 days of receiving your certificate.
- Provide your Update Service ID to IY(UK) to give permission for verification.

If you're not registered, IY(UK) requires a scanned copy of your Enhanced Disclosure certificate issued within the last 3 years.

There is no official expiry, but IY(UK) and most safeguarding bodies recommend renewing every 3 years.

You must renew sooner if:

Your role changes

There is any relevant change to your criminal record.

AccessNI data must be handled in line with:

- The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.
- Certificates and disclosure details must be kept confidential and secure.
- IY(UK) stores vetting information in strict confidence and uses it only for safeguarding verification.